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PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1733**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Robert C. YU et al.

Group Art Unit: 1733

Application No.: 09/683,329

Examiner: J. Haran

Filed: December 14, 2001

Docket No.: 118095

For: FABRICATION METHOD FOR ELECTROSTATOGRAPHIC MEMBER HAVING A VIRTUAL FLEXIBLE SEAMLESS SUBSTRATE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the June 21, 2004 Office Action, please consider the following remarks.

Applicants thank Examiner Haran for the courtesies extended during the July 27, 2004 Examiner Interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-23 are under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,549,193 to Schlueter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,688,355 to Yu (hereinafter "Yu"), U.S. Patent No. 5,997,974 to Schlueter et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,942,301 to Schlueter et al. (hereinafter "Schlueter '301"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present claims are directed to a process for forming an effectively seamless flexible electrostatographic imaging member belt. In the claimed processes, emissions or a laser beam is used to form features in a belt material that can be overlapped with one another to form an effectively seamless belt. By this process a layer of the belt material is ablated with emissions or a laser beam so as to form features that can be overlapped with one another. None of the cited references teach or suggest placing a template over a material in order to

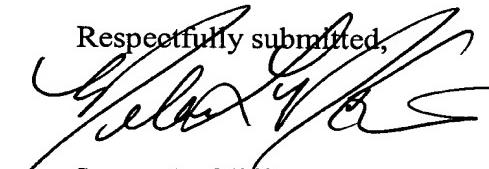
form such a structure by the claimed processes. In particular, Yu does not teach or suggest that a template can be used in the process described therein. Furthermore, Schlueter '301 does not teach or suggest that the template described therein could be effectively used in the process described in Yu. In contrast, Schlueter '301 teaches the formation of puzzle cuts that go through the material and therefore are not overlapped with one another.

None of the cited references teach or suggest the invention of claims 1-23. Therefore, the rejection over these references should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-23 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:MLM/jam

Date: July 29, 2004

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